CLAIMS

1.   A method of detecting proliferative diseases causing sclerosis, comprising measuring the expression of at least one substance selected from the group consisting of STAT3, phosphorylated STAT3, Smad1, phosphorylated Smad1, activin receptor-like kinase 1, activin receptor-like kinase 3 and bone morphogenetic proteins in a biological sample.

2.   A method of evaluating the degree of progress and/or the efficacy of treatment of proliferative diseases causing sclerosis, comprising measuring the expression of at least one substance selected from the group consisting of STAT3, phosphorylated STAT3, Smad1, phosphorylated Smad1, activin receptor-like kinase 1, activin receptor-like kinase 3 and bone morphogenetic proteins in a biological sample.

3.   A kit for detecting proliferative diseases causing sclerosis, comprising a reagent(s) for measuring the expression of at least one substance selected from the group consisting of STAT3, phosphorylated STAT3, Smad1, phosphorylated Smad1, activin receptor-like kinase 1, activin receptor-like kinase 3 and bone morphogenetic proteins in a biological sample.

4.   A kit for evaluating the degree of progress and/or the efficacy of treatment of proliferative diseases causing sclerosis, comprising a reagent(s) for measuring the expression of at least one substance selected from the group consisting of STAT3, phosphorylated STAT3, Smad1, phosphorylated Smad1, activin receptor-like kinase 1, activin receptor-like kinase 3 and bone morphogenetic proteins in a biological sample.

5.   A method of detecting diabetic nephropathy, comprising measuring the expression of Smad1 and/or a substance having Smad1-activating effect in a biological sample.

6.   A method of evaluating the degree of progress and/or the efficacy of treatment of diabetic nephropathy, comprising measuring the expression of Smad1 and/or a substance having Smad1-activating effect in a biological sample.

7.   A kit for detecting diabetic nephropathy, comprising a reagent(s) for measuring the expression of Smad1 and/or a substance having Smad1-activating effect.

8.   A kit for evaluating the degree of progress and/or the efficacy of treatment of diabetic nephropathy, comprising a reagent(s) for measuring the expression of Smad1 and/or a substance having Smad1-activating effect.

9.   A prophylactic and/or therapeutic agent for proliferative diseases causing sclerosis, comprising as an active ingredient a substance having an inhibitory effect on the expression of at least one substance selected from the group consisting of STAT3, phosphorylated STAT3, Smad1 and phosphorylated Smad1.

10.   A drug inhibiting the increase of extracellular matrix, comprising as an active ingredient a substance having an inhibitory effect on the expression of at least one substance selected from the group consisting of STAT3, phosphorylated STAT3, Smad1 and phosphorylated Smad1.

11.   A drug inhibiting the expression of $\alpha 1$ type IV collagen, comprising as an active ingredient a substance having an inhibitory effect on the expression of at least one substance selected from the group consisting of STAT3, phosphorylated STAT3, Smad1 and phosphorylated Smad1.

12.   A method of identifying substances effective in preventing and/or treating proliferative diseases causing sclerosis, comprising judging whether or not a test substance inhibits the expression of at least one substance selected from the group consisting of STAT3, phosphorylated STAT3, Smad1 and phosphorylated Smad1.

13.   A method of identifying substances effective in inhibiting the increase of extracellular matrix, comprising judging whether or not a test substance inhibits the expression of at least one substance selected from the group consisting of STAT3, phosphorylated STAT3, Smad1 and phosphorylated Smad1.

14.   A method of identifying substances effective in inhibiting the expression of $\alpha 1$ type IV collagen, comprising judging whether or not a test substance inhibits the expression of at least one substance selected from the group consisting of STAT3, phosphorylated STAT3, Smad1 and phosphorylated Smad1.

15.   A kit for identifying substances effective in preventing and/or treating proliferative diseases causing sclerosis, comprising a reagent(s) for measuring the expression of at least one substance selected from the group consisting of STAT3, phosphorylated STAT3, Smad1 and phosphorylated Smad1.

16.   A kit for identifying substances effective in inhibiting the increase of extracellular matrix, comprising a reagent(s) for measuring the expression of at least one substance selected from the group consisting of STAT3, phosphorylated STAT3, Smad1 and phosphorylated Smad1.

17.   A kit for identifying substances effective in inhibiting the expression of α1 type IV collagen, comprising a reagent(s) for measuring the expression of at least one substance selected from the group consisting of STAT3, phosphorylated STAT3, Smad1 and phosphorylated Smad1.